Extracts of two Letters from Mr. Martin Liſter *to the Publiſher, of* June 14. 1671. *and* July 5. 1671. *concerning the kind of Inſect, hatched of the Engliſh* Kermes, *formerly taken notice of and deſcribed by the ſame in* Numb. 71. p. 2164; *as alſo the Uſe of theſe Purple Inſect-Husks for tinging, together with a compariſon made of this* Engliſh Purple-Kermes *with the* Scarlet-Kermes *of the Shops.*

THe *firſt* Letter, *June* 10th. I found ſeveral of the *Patellæ Kermi formes* hatched in a Box, where I had purpoſely put them. They prove a ſort, as I gueſſed by the figure of the Worm, of Bees, but certainly the leaſt, that I ever yet ſaw of that Tribe, as not much exceeding in their whole bulk the half of a Piſmire. They are very compact and thick for the bigneſs; of a cole-black colour. They ſeem to want neither ſtings, nor the three balls in a triangle in their fore-head; which yet are things to be referred to the teſtimony of a Microſcope. That which is very remarkable to the naked Eye, is a white or ſtraw-colour large and round ſpot on the back: Of their four Wings the upper pair are ſhaded or dark-ſpotted, the undermoſt pair are clear. We may entitle them, according to our cuſtom, *Apiculæ nigræ, maculâ ſuper humeros ſub-flaveſcente inſignitæ, è patellis ſive favis membranaceis, veri Kermes ſimilibus, ſuâque itidem purpurâ tingentibus, Ceraſi aut Roſæ aliarumve arborum virgis adtextis, excluſæ.*

This of the Purple-Husks, and the other Hiſtory of Scarlet-ſtaining Eggs * I preſent you as parallels of our Engliſh ſtore to *Kermes* and *Cocheneil*; I mean, additaments to encreaſe the number of agreeable tinging Materials and not Medicaments, unleſs wary and ſafe Tryal ſhall diſcover to us if they have any Medicinal qualities, as uſe and cuſtom hath made us believe the Exotic have in an high degree. One of the ſaid husks, I ſent you, adhered to a Roſe-tree-twig, and the other to a Cherry-tree. But a Roſe-buſh ſince hath afforded me ſome ſcores of theſe *patellæ*, many of which are hatched in the box I put them. It is to be further obſerved, 1. that thoſe that look the blackeſt, yield the deepeſt and beſt purple: 2. That as the Bees come to maturity, the dye ſeems to be ſpent, and the Husks grow dry. 3. That the

* Of which latter, ſee *Numb.* 72. p. 2176, 2177.

the young ones make their way out at ſeveral ſmall holes; whereas the true *Kermes*-husk ſeems to be pierced but in one place.

The *Second*; The diſcovery of our *Engliſh Kermes* hath very much pleaſed ſome of the Curious in theſe parts; who reſolve upon Tryals of it the next ſeaſon. I think, I advertiſed you formerly, that that deep purple or violet, with which the inſides of the husks are lin'd, is much ſpent, if the husks be not taken whileſt the Bees are in *vermiculo*; and the blackeſt husks are richeſt in colour. Yeſterday in very good company we compar'd our Engliſh *Purple-kermes* with the *Scarlet-kermes* or Grains of the Shops, and found them in every point to agree ſave in the colour of their Juices; and particularly (finding in ſome parcels of the Shops many yet ſticking to little twigs of the *Ilex*,) we confidently affirm, that thoſe as well as ours are only contiguous to the Ilex-branches, and are not *excreſcencies* of the Tree, much leſs *fruit* or *berries*; by which abuſive names they have been too long known; But that they are the artifice and ſole work of the mother-Bee in order to the more convenient hiving and nouriſhment of her young.

An Extract of a Letter, written to the Publiſher by the Excellent Johannes Hevelius, *concerning his further Obſervations of the* New Star *near the* Beak *of the* Swan; *to be compared with what was formerly publiſhed of the ſame Argument in* Numb. 65. *and* Numb. 66.

This Extract we ſhall give you in the ſame Language it was written from *Dantzick* the 1ſt. of *May* 1671. ſt. n.

—*De reliquo mearum etiam partium eſſe duxi, Vobis quantocyus ſignificare, me nudius-tertius, die vidêl.* 29. April. *Novam illam Stellam ſub capite* Cygni, *ad Viam Lacteam, quam Anno proximè præterito à menſe* Junio & Julio, *ad uſque* 14. Octob. *conſpexeram, denuo obſervaſſe, & quidem eo ipſo loco, quo tunc temporis conſiſtebat. Interim magnitudine mihi nunc aliquanto major apparet; quippe excedit illam in Roſtro Cygni, nec non eam quæ eſt in ancone inferioris alæ Cygni, ſe æque illi quæ eſt in Pectore Cygni æquatur, niſi quod lumine paulò obtuſiori & rubicundiori modò luceat. Quâ verò die primùm rurſus illuxerit, affirmare adeò certò non poſſum. Nam*

tùm